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WASHINGTON OFFICE-513 Fourteenth st. P. S. HEATH, Correspondent.

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AGAINST all the ad valorem arguments of the Democrats in the House is placed the fact that all the articles necessary for the average person can be bought as cheap here as in Great Britain.

THE Republicans of Arkansas wil hold a convention at Little Rock, July 9, and will make an attempt to secure a free and honest election. They certainly have the courage of their convictions.

It is announced that Senator Gorman, of Maryland, will be the Democratic leader in the Senate in place of the late Senator Beck. This seems like a slight to our senior Senator, who had been in the Senate three years when Mr. Gorman entered.

An English paper says that the United States, under the present tariff, cannot compete with England in making tinplates, because we have not cheap female labor. Cheap female labor means wages of less than \$2 per week. Do we want to compete under such conditions?

A MUGWUMP contemporary complacently refers to "the well-known partisanship of the head of the Census Bureau as a protectionist and Republican." Of course, if he were a free-trader and Democrat he would not be a partisan. Queer how circumstances alter cases.

A REPUBLICAN victory in Sussex county, Delaware, where the Democracy have been in power for more than twenty years, has developed a deficit of \$32,000 in the county treasury. Compared with the large defalcations of several Southern State Treasurers this seems very small, but it shows what the county treasurer might have done under more favorable opportunities. He sustained the party record to the best of his ability.

THE Atlanta Constitution notes with pleasure the organization of a trust and loan company in that city by leading colored men, and predicts that it marks a new era in the progress of the race. It says that hundreds of colored men in Georgia have acquired real estate, and that many of them may be considered wealthy. Thus it appears that the race issue is taking care of itself, and will, if the colored people are protected in their

THE Farmers' Alliance in one Congressional district in Kansas has organized a joint stock newspaper company, with a capital stock of \$50,000, and will immediately proceed to establish three newspapers in the interest of the order. If the Kansas farmers are anxious to get rid of their surplus funds they could hardly devise a more speedy and effectual way than by starting newspapers. They will probably acquire all the experience they want in a very short

A LETTER from Kausas says preparations are making in all the large towns to do an open business under the "original package" decision. The agents of outside breweries and distilleries are fitting up depositories, taking orders, and getting ready to do a rushing business. This is a cheerful situation for the consideration of third-party Prohibitionists, who helped to elect a Democratic President and bring about the appointment of the Judge who wrote the decision. Verily they have their reward.

THE Journal embraces the last opportunity before the opening performance of the musical festival to say a good word for an enterprise which deserves so well of the community. The festival is an art exposition, as much so as a great exhibition of paintings and statuary. In this sense it is both an educator and an attraction for all who find something else to live for besides dollars and cents. barter and trade. The music to be rendered here during the next few days is such as is given in musical centers of Europe, the best productions of the best composers faithfully interpreted by superior artists, a superb orchestra and a grand chorus. Such an entertainment is a great credit to the city, and it will be a great discredit to our people if it is not liberally patronized.

Western city-boomers and real-estate cent. As a matter of fact, the prices of son, of Iowa, who is a very able agents have furnished the Superintend- | prints are the same in London and New ent of the Census occasion for issuing a strongly worded circular of instructions to enumerators, impressing upon them | In his recent speech Major McKinley, in the necessity of accuracy and honesty in | the portion devoted to earthenware, extheir work. He shows a just degree of | poses the fallacy of the ad valorem asindignation that efforts should have sumption. In 1852, when the duty on been made by interested parties and such ware was 24 per cent., and none of even by town and city authorities to in- it made in this country, the price of a duce enumerators to falsify their returns | crate of white ware in New York was | in the vicinity. But, under this decisand show a larger population than the | \$95,30. In 1890, with a duty of 55 per | ion, scores of dealers in original pack-

facts would warrant. They are warned that nothing short of absolutely honest returns will be tolerated, and Congress will be asked immediately to enact a law making it a penal offense to attempt to bribe enumerators. There is all the more necessity for unusual vigilance and accuracy in this matter, because the Democratic press, for the first time in the history of the country, is attempting to discredit the census returns in advance. No person or paper with a spark of patriotism would engage in that sort of work for partisan purposes, but Democrats are engaging in it, and it behooves the Superintendent to use great vigilance lest they try to lay a foundation for their charges by corrupting the enumerators.

AN IMPORTANT NATIONAL WORK.

The era of railroad construction in

this country and the rapid extension of overland traffic has begotten a sort of contempt for water communication, and especially for canals. It is nevertheless true that water communication is a great factor in the transportation problem, and canals are likely to play a more important part in its final solution than most persons now think. Canals are not despised in European countries, and are deemed worthy to occupy an important part in their systems of transportation. Several European governments are now engaged in constructing costly canals, and the time will come when they will be regarded with more favor in this country than they are now. Not to mention other projects of national interest, the West and Northwest are deeply interested in the improvement of water communication with the seaboard by the way of the northern lakes. An American waterway by which the largest lake steamers could go from the furthest point of lake navigation to the sea without breaking bulk would be of inestimable value to the country. The United States has already made a good beginning toward such a waterway by the construction of the Sault Saint Mary canal, at the outlet of Lake Superior, with the finest and largest lock in the world. The excavation of the St. Clair Flats canal, at the outlet of Lake Huron, and the deepening of the Detroit river at the entrance to Lake Erie are a part of the same plan. Its continuance and completion requires a ship canal around Niagara Falls on the American side, from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. Plans and estimates for this work have been submitted to Congress, and a bill providing for its construction has been introduced. The canal would be eighteen miles in length, and its estimated cost would be \$23,000,000, but it would furnish the missing link to a new deep-water route between the West and the seaboard of inestimable value. With a view of securing part of the traffic of our Western and Northwestern States, Canada has already constructed a canal system which gives her a great advantage over the United States in this regard. She has the Welland canal around Niagara falls, the St. Lawrence-river canals around the rapids, and a deepwater artificial channel from Montreal to the sea, making Montreal practically a seaport, 300 miles nearer Liverpool than New York is. It stands to reason that, unless this government constructs similar water-ways, Canada will do a large part of the carrying business between the Northwest and the seaboard. In fact, she is doing so now. And her enterprise is further shown by the fact that, notwithstanding Canadian vessels are allowed to use the Sault Saint Mary canal, a United States work, free of tolls, Canada is now engaged in constructing a canal of her own on the Canadian side of the rapids. At present we are permitted to use the Welland canal, free of tolls, in consideration of Canadian vessels being permitted free use of the Sault Saint Mary canal, but when Canada has a canal of her own around St. Mary's falls she will be in a position to dictate her own terms to us as to the use of the Welland. The United States should not allow itself to be placed in that position. It would be humiliating to have to pay tribute to Canada in time of peace, and in the event of war our position would be desperate. Until the United States shall construct a canal around Niagara falls Canada will continue to acquire an increasing proportion of the American carrying trade, and Montreal will cut into the foreign trade of New York as it is now doing. There are other canal projects of national interest, but, all things considered, the Niagara ship canal probably demands first attention.

THE AD VALOREM NONSENSE.

In the tariff debate that is now going on in the House, one cannot fail to note that while the free-traders give long lists of ad valorem duties they never give the prices of articles upon which these duties were imposed in 1860 or before, when the country was under a revenue-tariff law, and at the present time. or ten years ago-and at the present time Mr. Mills deals only with ad valorem percentages, as if they had all to do with the subject. The free-traders assume, and stick to the assumption in spite of facts and experience, that an increase of duty is equivalent to an increase in price. In his last letter Mr. Cleveland calmly assumes that the duty is added to the price of goods abroad and that the consumer must pay on all goods, whether manufactured at home or abroad, the foreign price with the duty added. Doubtless Mr. Cleveland, who is a disciple of the Cobden Club, really believes this, and does not know that it is nonsense. He would insist that because cheap prints sell in London at 5 cents a yard, they must sell in New York | can require a dealer in "original packfor 8 cents, the duty, according to a free-THE dishonest machinations of certain | trade ad valorem figurer, being 58 per | lege York: and the same is true of nearly all manufactured articles in common use.

cent., with the sharp domestic competition of our own potteries, the same assorted crate is selling for \$46.30. If the ad valorem theory of the free-traders were true, the crate of crockery would cost \$123.80, instead of \$46.30. Again, the duty on this same white ware was increased in 1883 from 40 to 55 per cent. If the free-trade assumption were true the ware should be higher now than then by 15 per cent. In 1882, white ware, not so good as is now produced, sold for \$57.89, the present price being \$46.30—a reduction of 20 per cent., instead of an advance of 15 per cent. Upon the same assumption it can be maintained, and doubtless is, that with a tariff on articles which prohibits their importation, the prices would continue the same year after year. To prove the fallacy of this assumption the following comparative prices, in 1880 and 1890, ascertained by the editor of the Fort Dodge (Ia.) Messenger, in response to an inquiry made by a patron and taken from the books of a retailer in that city, are given:

.\$315 \$130.00 14.00 20.00 Iron nails per 100 lbs..... Cook stove.....

24.00 These are but samples, and not those showing the greatest reduction, taken from a list covering the whole range of farm, building and household articles. The same writer asserts that the decline in the price of ready-made clothing and boots and shoes during the ten years has been 33 1-3 per cent. These are facts, and, with sensible and practical people, facts are better than assumptions, no matter who makes them.

THE CONFEDERATE FLAG WILL BE CARRIED A few days ago the New York Camp of Confederate Veterans adopted a sensible and loval resolution against carrying the confederate flag at the unveiling ceremonies of the equestrian statue of Gen. R. E. Lee, soon to occur in Richmond, Va. The substance of the resolution was that the flag no longer represented anything; that all Americans now owed loyalty to the stars and stripes, and that flying the confederate flag was apt to give offense, while it did no good. The Richmond Dispatch, the Democratic organ of Virginia, disapproves the resolution, and intimates that the ex-confederates residing in New York have sacrificed their principles to their social surroundings. It insists that the resolution adopted by them "will not be taken as proper standard of action by hundreds of organizations that will swell the grand procession on May 29." It says great numbers of confederate battle-flags manufactured for the occasion, have been procured by ex-confederates, and will be carried in the procession along with the stars and stripes, which is graciously admits is the flag of "this grand and happily reunited country.'

Continuing, it says: Is it treason that these flags and emblems should grace such an occasion? It is no only not treason, but it is fit and proper, for we are celebrating the perpetuation of the memory of a hero, not a traitor. As well object to the confederate uniform fashioned in bronze which will be unveiled that day for the admiration of generations to come. * * It is time our people stopped pay ing deference to fanatics on this point. We fought for a principle we believed right, and were defeated by the sword. Nevertheless we fought bravely and nobly. Yes, the "conquered" and our star-spangled banner will unite in gala festival to the memory of gallant Lee, and the fanatic who raises objection and tries to raise a false sentiment is a stirrer-up of strife unworthy

of the consideration of law-abiding, patri-The incident is of no great consequence, but it serves to illustrate the implacable Bourbonism of the ruling class in the South. The spirit evinced is not dangerous, but it is unpatriotic, foolish and exasperating. In no other country, of course, would citizens be permitted to carry in a public procession the flag borne in a rebellion against the governmemories. This government is strong enough not only to permit it but to treat it with contempt, and no doubt that is the best way. But it is a poor compliment to the national flag whose authority the Southern people now profess to recognize, and whose protection and benefits they enjoy in common with other citizens, to embrace every public occasion to place it on a level with a banner which represents nothing but disloyalty to the flag. Southern Democrats who insist on flaunting the rebel flag are either not loyal at heart to the national flag or else they stultify themselves. The flags represent two antagonistic ideas and warring principles, and no man loyal to one can desire to rescue the other from the oblivion to which the fate of war and the verdict of history have consigned it. It is unfortunate for the South that the race of Bourbons who insist on making perennial fools of themselves by taking up the embers of the lost cause is so longlived. They are the men who keep it solid for the Democracy and who denounce every demand for the enforcement of the Constitution and laws as

waving the bloody shirt.

THAT SWEEPING DECISION. The more the decision of the Supreme Court in the interstate liquor case is considered the more there appears to be of it. The saloon element in prohibitory States, and particularly on the borders of such States, were jubilant at the outset, because it enabled them to carry on their traffic in a restricted but very profitable manner. The organs of the drink trade were equally jubilant, and declared that there could be no restrictive legislation by States against a traffic which the general government recognized as legal. Those who thought the subject over could see no reason why the decision does not invalidate license laws in States to the extent that they ages" to pay a license for the priviof so doing. Senator Willawyer, confirms this view. He claims that, under the decision, a person who desires to evade a high license in one State can set up original package establishments and have a member of the combination send him goods from another State. Massachusetts and Pennsylvania have laws which limit licensed saloons to a given number of population

ages can set up in business and nullify such laws and make high licenses of little value to those who hold them. Many States have special laws regarding the sale and inspection of oleomargarine and inflammable oils which will be nullified by this decision. In other ways the decision deprives States of the power to establish their own police regulations.

This would be a very serious matter if there were no remedy, but, fortunately, the Supreme Court which made this decision suggests a remedy, which is that Congress can confer upon States, by law, the right to suppress or regulate the liquor traffic. Such a measure is already before the House, and it behooves Congressmen who favor high license or State restriction in any form to support it, since their States are as much interested as those that have prohibitory laws. Nevertheless, the decision will stand as the most sweeping affirmation of the supremacy of the federal government over the State, and one which can be quoted, if necessary, to sustain Congress in taking absolute control of the election of Representatives to Congress. In this connection it may be noted that the author of the decision, Chief-justice Fuller, and two of the associate justices signing it, Field and Lamar, are Democrats, and that only two of the associate justices who are Republicans concurred in the opinion, while three Republicans united in a dissenting view.

STRUGGLE as they may, our farmers can not escape the conditions which fix the price of what they produce, and according to the rates which prevail in foreign markets, flooded with the competition of countries enjoying a freer exchange of trade

than we.—Cleveland's Letter. If this is true, the farmers ought to thank protection, for the prices of all farm products have averaged higher during the last twenty-five years than in any other like period of our history. Since 1860 the price of wheat has been below \$1 per bushel five years, and more than \$1 twenty-four years. No period of free trade or low tariff can equal this record. All other farm products have averaged high in the same

proportion. THE New York Commercial Advertiser has been giving some attention to school-book legislation, and says the law recently passed by the Ohio Legislature is infinitely preferable to the California system of State manufacture or the Indiana system of State contract with a single firm. On the Ohio plan the books will be furnished as cheaply as in Indiana, and greatly surpass them in quality, since each locality is free to choose its own books and to choose the best books in the market. The Indiana system finds no defenders outside of the Becktold company and a few Democratic politicians who have no real interest in the welfare of the schools.

PROF. WILLIAM JAMES, of Harvard University, is a member of a committee appointed by the International Congress of Experimental Psychology, which met at Paris last summer, to investigate the subject of hallucinations. The preliminary steps of this investigation will be the procuring of facts to serve as a basis of study of the phenomena, and to this end a "cen sus of hallucinations" will be taken. It is hoped by receiving reports on the subject to ascertain approximately the proportion of persons who have had such experiences and to decide whether the so-called visions -as, for instance, those of persons who are known to be at a distance, and are afterward found to have died the moment of the appearance-are accidental coincidences, or something more. Some 8,000 or more persons in England, France and the United States have already returned answers to the question which heads the census sheets, and which runs as follows: "Have you ever, when completely awake, had a vivid impression of seeing or being touched by a ment and representing only treasonable living being or inanimate object, or of hearing a voice, which impression, so far as you could discover, was not due to any external physical cause?" The congress hopes at the next meeting, in England, in 1892, to have as many as 50,000 answers collected, and to facilitate the collection, blanks have been prepared for the use of those who are sufficiently interested to gather statistics among their friends. This is a new form of the old-time search for the human soul, but, being conducted on a scientific plan, possibly the hitherto illusive creation may be cornered and its existence verified. As most men and women have had bits of experience in their lives that seem explainable only on a supernatural basis, a great many stories, interesting if not valuable, might be gleaned by energetic canvassers, if they could persuade these men and women to talk. A mere "yes" or "no," however, will be thankfully received by the committee.

> apolis recently for the purpose of ob taining signatures to a protest against the duties levied on lead ores in the McKinley bill. He bears a resolution of the club against the clause, and has much to say about the proposed duty ruining the great smelting industries of Kansas and Missouri. As a matter of fact, his expenses are paid by the Consolidated Kansas City Smelting and Refining Company, just as were those of ex-Secretary McCrary, who, as a representative of the same club, argued the case before Secretary Windom when the case came up on a Treasury ruling on mixed silver-lead ores some months ago. Mr. McCrary was sent to Washington before the matter was brought to the attention of the club by Mr. A. R Meyer, vice-president of the club and president of the smelting company, by whose personal influence the club was induced to commit itself, notwithstanding strong opposition. The recent resolution of the club was, doubtless, procured in the same way. This duty on lead ore affects only Mr. Meyer's company, which owns its own mines in Mexico, and is thus able to get its ore more cheaply than if it had to employ American labor in American mines. The other smelters of the West use Missouri and Colorado ores. Now comes the Kansas City Mining Exchange, which certainly has a more intimate knowledge with resolutions strongly indorsing the duty on lead ores. Possibly there is no wealthy concern that will send out a representative of the mining exchange to obtain signatures to another protest, but the resolutions will probably have their effect just the same. In a paper on "Defective Vision in Public

A GENTLEMAN representating the Kansas

City Commercial Club has been in Indian-

Schools," read before the Sanitary Convention at Philadelphia by Professor Rissley, of the Pennsylvania University, the state-

ment was made that out of 22,482 eyes examined in the Philadelphia schools, last year, 50 per cent. were defective. It will not do to charge this impaired vision entirely to the improper conditions in the school-rooms, but it is safe to say that such conditions caused the trouble in a large proportion of cases and aggravated it in the remainder. This circumstance, however, will hardly produce any change in the school-room management or in the popular system of black-board instruction that keeps the eyes of pupils on a constant

THE town of Tacoma, Wash., which sent George Francis Train around the world, cannot complain that he is not doing all that could be expected of him in the way of advertising the place. He blandly informs the reporters, and other inquiring citizens of European towns honored with his temporary presence, that Tacoma is the future metropolis of the world, and is now the only city that has any enterprise. There are indications that the reading matter provided for his journey consists mainly of boom circulars.

A NEW YORK paper says that the rise in the stocks and bonds of the Gould properties is due to the fact that he has changed from a bear to a bull. If Jay Gould is in the market, it is the best place in this world for the average person to be out of.

To the Editor of the Indianapouls Journal: Please mention five of the greatest American inventions and five of the greatest European inventions, and give names of inventors. Tell which, in your opinion, has conferred the greatest blessing on the world. Please tell me which is considered the greatest poet, Longfellow or MARTINSVILLE, Ind.

(1.) Among the great number of inventions of modern times it is impossible to state authoritively which are to be regarded as the most important, or as "greatest," in the sense of effecting an industrial revolution, opinions differing widely as to the relative benefits. Of the inventions that most readily suggest themselves, are Watts's steam engine, Arkwright's spinning jenny Gutenburg's printing press, Daguerre's photographic process, Fulton's steamboat, Morse's telegraph, Howe's sewing-machine, Whitney's cotton gin. Edison's telephone. phonograph, etc. The farming and manufacturing machinery and the "modern improvements" that are an outgrowth of these discoveries, and which can not be catalogued here, are hardly less important than the original inventions. (2.) It is a matter

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal: Please state where mad-stones on record are said to have been found, and whether there is

of opinion.

such a thing as a mad-stone! MAD-STONES, so-called, are light, porous stones of greenish color, which are said to have the power of drawing the venom from the bite of a mad-dog, or other animal, afflicted with hydrophobia. There is no proof that we are aware of that the application ever prevented an attack of hydrophobia, or checked its progress, after the disease had developed, but there are numerous well-attested cases showing that under certain conditions the stone will adhere to a wound. The stones are found in certain parts of the South, and are rare. In medical circles their efficacy is regarded with doubt.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

ANDREW CARNEGIE'S new hotel for workingmen will cost \$300,000.

THE city of Baltimore is raising a fund to erect a monument to Francis Scott Key. TALMAGE is to receive \$10,000 for twenty lectures before the Chautauqua assemblies

EVER sivce Proctor Knott delivered his Duluth speech he has been popular in that section. He will address the Wisconsin Press Association at Superior, July 22. Two thousand students were measured at

Cambridge, England, and the figures show that stature, strength and breathing capacity have nothing to do with literary excellence. Neither has the size of hat which SIXTEEN years ago a Swiss cobbler named

Bernaserni left his home in the Canton Tessin and emigrated to the Argentine Republic. He has now returned the possessor of millions which he made as a dealer in leather and hides. He is now building on the place where his Swiss house stood an asylum for 200 children. TEN thousand dollars is now the highest

recorded price for a violin. The Alard Stradivarius has passed from France to England for that sum, to go into the col lection of a Scotchman. It is dated 1716. It is described in the catalogue of the South Kensington exhibition of 1871 as the only one in a condition of perfect preservation. MISS BERTHA VON HILLERN, the artist. who first won fame by her efforts as pedestrain, and Miss Emma Howard Wight, the author, are building a summer cottage

famous battle-ground of Cedar Creek. Miss Von Hillern will fit up one portion of the cottage as a studio and Miss Wight another portion as a study. THE figure of Mr. Beecher, just cast in bronze in New York, 18 of heroic size, nine feet high, and will stand on a granite pedestal of about the same height. He stands wearing his familiar cape overcoat, the straight-cut undercoat being also open,

with his soft hat in his left hand, and his

dressing a public meeting. JOHN STRANGE WINTER, of "Bootles's Baby" fame, who, in private life, is Mrs. Arthur Stannard, says that she owes the success she has had to the influence which a lecture of Mr. Ruskin's had on her. The theme was carnestness in art, and the advice which it contained has been faithfully carried out by Mrs. Stannard during the

whole of her literary career. THE Queen of Spain's secret of success i explained by a Spanish statesman: "She the exact opposite of an intriguing woman.' he says. "She tells no falsehoods, has nothing of the hypocrite about her, is as simple and modest as she is honest, and there is nobody in Spain who is not convinced that she tries to do her best for the country. Natural tact, intelligence and kindness are also among the weapons by which Christine maintains her position. She must be a queen indeed.

It is said that in the town of La Grasse France, where the making of perfumes is largely carried on, phthisis is almost unknown, owing, no doubt, to the odorone vapor inhaled from the numerous distilleries. Now, if residing in a perfumed at mosphere forms a protection against pul monary affections and arrests their devel opment, then flowers and the perfumes distilled from them must have a salutary influence upon the constitution and become a therapeutic agency of great value.

ANNIE PUSHKIN, the granddaughter of Russia's greatest poet, is confined in the dreaded prison of St. Peter and St. Paul at St. Petersburg, on a charge of complicity in a Nihilist conspiracy. She is eighteen years old, beautiful and talented, and her arrest was effected during the recent ab sence of the Czar. Since learning of the details the Czar is furious against all concerned in it, for the name of Pushkin is exceedingly popular throughout Russia. Every anniversary of the death of the poet, who fell in an unfair duel fifty years ago. is religiously observed, while the name of the murderer is abhorred.

ADDRESSING the Roumanian Academy at Bucharest on its twenty-fifth anniversary, the Queen of Roumania said: "The honorable members of this academy some days ago requested me to speak a few words amid this assembly of learned men. I replied in the text of Holy Scripture—'Women ought to keep silence in the church.' I have not changed my opinion to-day. I shall always maintain that the active life of woman ought not to go beyond the

sacred interior of her home, and that the voice of woman sounds nowhere so sweetly musical as on her own hearthstone in the midst of her children. But God has enlarged and extended the limits of my domestic hearth. My dear country, with its manian people; is that not for mea precious hearth? If I have consented to speak be-fore you to-day, I do so because I am realy at home in the very midst of my chil-

Your wife expects you now to be Of every trade a jack; So when you're shaking carpets see The wind be at your back.

CONCERNING THE CASE OF KEMMLER

Mile-Stone Indicating the Advance of the Race and the Progress of Civilization.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal Kemmler is not a passing incident; he is rather an important general fact in the social and civil history of our times. The matter, if I mistake not, is destined to be cited hereafter as a critical point in the evolution of the higher life in America. I do not know an instance which better than this illustrates the orderly movements of civilization. It is really a lesson of the very highest historical value, as it shows in terms that may be read of all the method by which, in spite of all human contrivance, the civilized life of man is constantly advanced to a bigher plane. There is in human history but one fundamental concept, and that is the evolution of the highest possible social and individual life of man. It is, however, in the nature of the human creature constantly to impede by his prejudices and superstitions the forward march of himself and his race. He persists in standing in his own light, until the forces of general causation, over which he as an individual bas no power. seize him suddenly by the shoulders and turn him around with his face to the dawn.

There is no room or opportunity in this connection to do more than note the historical value of this Kemmler incident. The Legislature of New York, perceiving. as all men perceive, the essential brutality of the gallows, concluded to substilife of the crimit was clearly electrical shock might be substituted with the greatest gain to humanity and to the decencies of such a process. Now several things may be said of this so-called "elec-

trocution First-It is instantaneous. No other method known at present, or indeed con-ceivable, can so suddenly extinguish hu-

Second-Itis devoid of sensational results. The body shocked to death remains as it was before. There is nothing ghastly or spectacular in the scene-no dismemberment of parts, no horrid struggle of the dy-

Third-If is doubtless the most painless method of extinction. To be sure, no one returns to tell us the story of how he died; but, so far as we are able to discover, death by the electric stroke is the most easy and painless of all the processes which suggest themselves for the destruction of life. Fourth-It is certain. A given current of electricity kills with all the certainty of the calculus. There is here no breaking of a rope, no error in the fall of an ax, no deviation of a blast of bullets.

These reasons, so palpable, so valid, so ndisputable, prevailed with the New York Legislature, and a new code was substituted for the old. The intent of the Legislature was simply to be humane, to abolish the gallows by substituting therefor auother method of execution which had in it less of the horror and brutality of the Mid-

But what has been the result? No sooner is the new law enacted, no sooner is a criminal condemned to execution by the new method, than an outery is raised against it. And why? We all know what reasons have been alleged. It has been said that this style of execution is cruel and unnatural. Cruel indeed as though the gallows were merciful! Unnatural indeed! as though any method of taking human life were natural! It has been said that this kind of execution is uncertain. Uncertain indeed! when everybody knows that no form of death by vio-lence, not even beheading, is more absolute than this! Perhaps fifty other kinds of subterfuge have been invented to throw the new statute into disrepute, and thereby bring back the good old way of the gal-

What does it all prove! It proves the

blindness and unconscious hypocrisy of

human society. It proves that we do not ourselves know at what end we are aiming in a case like this. It proves that a Legislature, as well as a man, may intend one thing and accomplish another. The facts are these: Civilization has reached a point in New York at which the death penalty is no longer tolerable. It is, however, in the nature of men to tolerate for a long time the abuses in the presence of which they have been born and bred. It is surprising what the human mind will bear when it has long been accustomed to it. The gallows is one of those monstrous things the score of familiarity. Civilization has determined that the gallows shall go, and has found it necessary or convenient to adopt the method of indirection. As soon as the new mode of execution was invented, as soon as the matter came to a crucial test, the real character of the death penalty was revealed. We have not been accustomed in this country to seeing men put into an iron chair and instantly shocked at Middletown, Va., upon the site of the to death by the touch of a button. We have been accustomed to seeing them strangled like dogs at the end of a rope as a great moral spectacle. Being accustomed to the gallows, we have tolerated it long after the death penalty has been rejected by the judg-and conscience of mankind. We have apologized for the gallows as one might praise a tree bearing pernicious fruit. There are not wanting those who still think it a thing of beauty. There are thousands of honest men who conscientiously believe that the gallows is a right hand somewhat extended, as if adgreat reformatory institution; that it deters from crime; that it is necessary to the maintenance of public order and the protection of life. But no man is found to say as much for the new method of destroying our criminals. Why not? Simply because this new method has come as a revelation. Philanthropists, statesmen, legislators thought that in this garb the death penalty would look better; and lo! it looks worse than ever. They intended to keep the thing by changing the garment; and lo! both the thing and the garment are about to be buried in a common oblivion under the contempt of the human race. As a matter of fact, men are not going to be executed in New York by electricity. The only ques-tion is whether New York can ever get safely back to her discarded gallows. To do so is to perform a feat which history does not permit. There are many things which men can do; but to make a watch run backwards is not one on them. The orderly progress of human society cannot be so reversed. New York finds herself suddenly unable to do so simple a thing as to take a man's life by electricity. She finds that by attempting to do a humane thing she is about to accomplish a thing far more humane than she intended. The whole circumstance furnishes an excellent object lesson in the progress and betterment of mankind. Of course, some of us will be angry to have these facts pointed out. Some will shout, "Great is the gallows of our fathers!" Some will say one thing and some another. But it is not likely that the truth will be disturbed or destiny alarmed by the outery. The fact is that New York has unwitting-

ly revealed to the American mind and conscience the true character of the penalty of death. This is the whole significance of the Kemmler incident. In doing as she has done New York has greatly embarrassed herself; but she must bear it for the good of the world. She finds herself unexpectedly between wind and water. She knows that the thing proposed was a just and bumane measure; but she discovers to her astonishment that the people will have none of it. We shall now see the attempt which will be made to restore the gallows. For one, I do not believe that it can be done. Unless my feeble glimpses at the beneficent laws which govern our human evolution have misled me—unless I see shadows instead of realities yonder in the distance—the gallows will never be reinstituted in New York. Neither will any man be put to death by electrocution in that great commonwealth or elsewhere in our country. For all of which let us take heart and thank heaven.

JOHN CLARK RIDPATH. GREENCASTLE, Ind., May 12.